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Jury Urges \$2,500 to \$10,000 Damages in CIA Mail Opening

NEW YORK (AP)—A federal jury has recommended damage payments of \$2,500 to \$10,000 for three Americans whose mail was opened by the Central Intelligence Agency.

The recommendations were made Thursday to U.S. Dist. Judge Jack Weinstein, who said he would rule by midsummer.

The CIA has admitted it opened hundreds of thousands of pieces of mail to and from the Soviet Union in the late 1960s and early 1970s, but said the program was halted in 1973.

Norman Birnbaum, a sociology professor at Amherst College who asked for \$50,000 damages, said the CIA had opened mail he sent to a Soviet colleague about a sociology convention in this country.

Leonard Avery, a Minneapolis executive, said the agency had opened a letter from his son, who was attending a Moscow university. He asked for \$20,000 in damages.

Writer Mary MacMillen of Boston, who also asked for \$20,000 said the CIA had opened a "very personal" letter she had sent to a prominent Russian, whom she did not identify.